

G.I. JOE

6 New PEN PALS Pages!

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AUTHORITY

G.I. Joe

10¢

OCTOBER
NO. 47



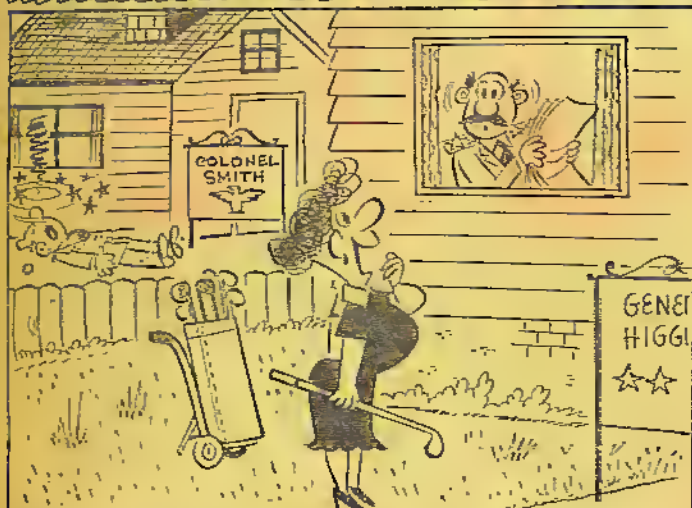
"MAN ON A TOWER" Why Did He Want to Die?



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KHAKI CAPERS

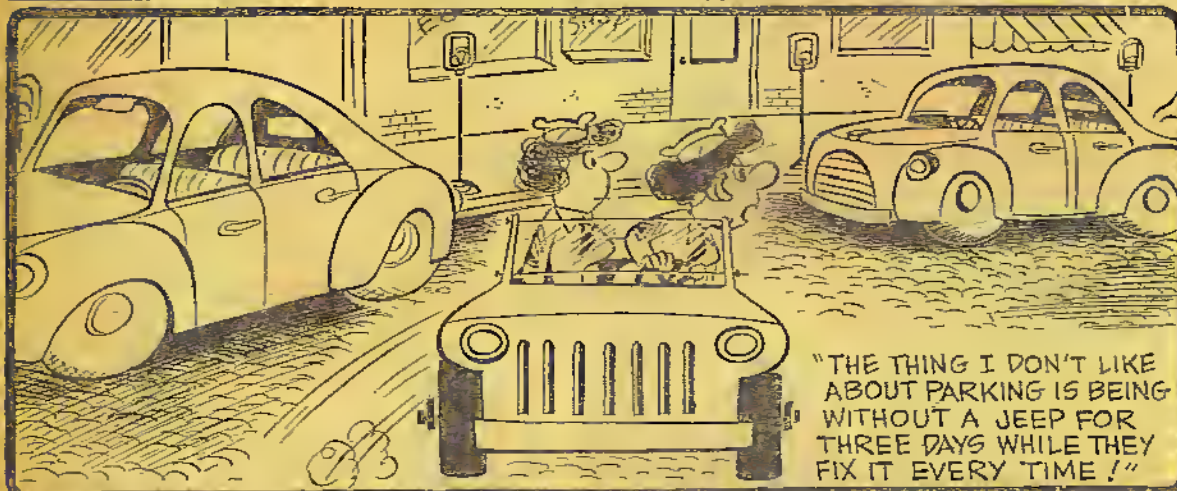
VIC
MARTIN



"I JUST HIT COLONEL SMITH! WOULD YOU CALL THAT AN 'EAGLE'?"



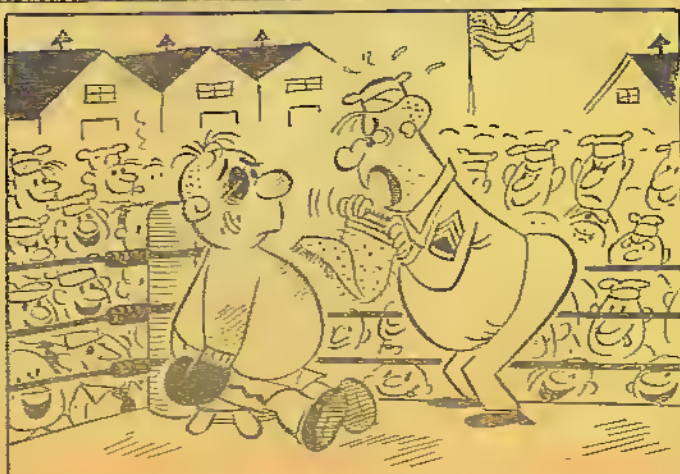
"IT'S YOUR MOVE, MAJOR..."



"THE THING I DON'T LIKE ABOUT PARKING IS BEING WITHOUT A JEEP FOR THREE DAYS WHILE THEY FIX IT EVERY TIME!"



"DO YOU HAVE ANY POISON IVY? I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING NASTY!"



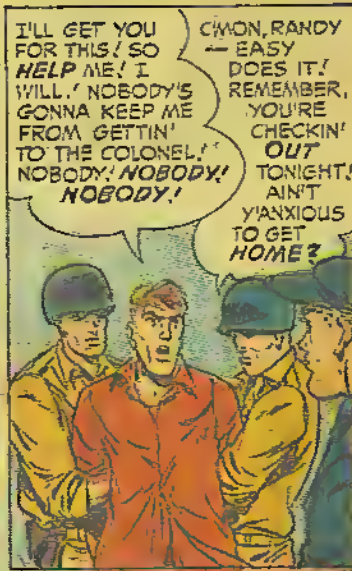
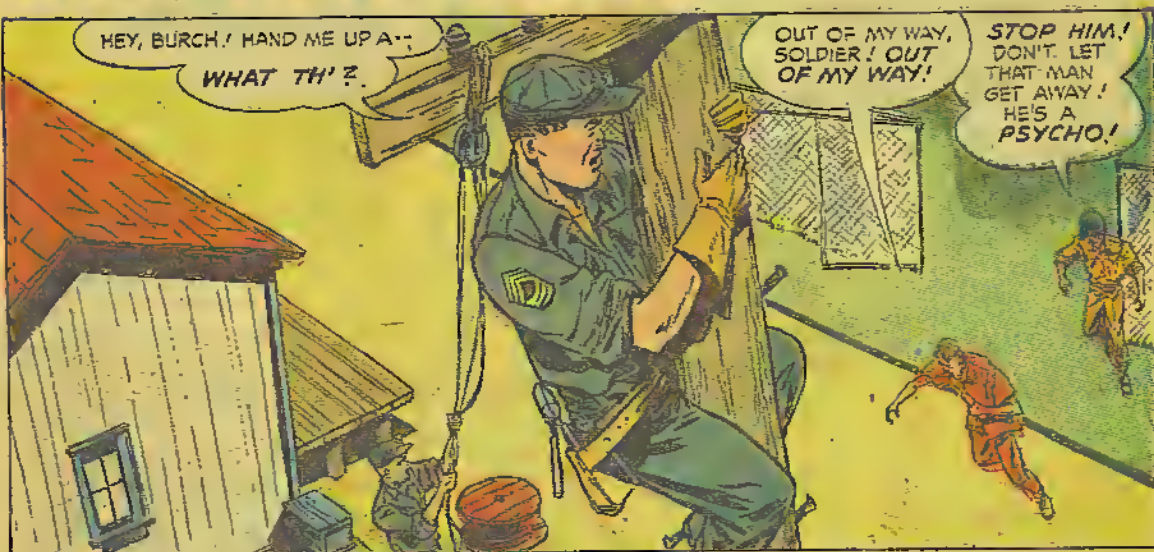
"I KNOW YOU GOT HIM ON THE RUN, BUT IT'S YOU HE'S RUNNING AFTER!"

G.I. Joe

in

MAN ON A TOWER

FOR A MAN TO BREAK UNDER THE RIGORS AND PRESSURES OF WARFARE, WAS NOT UNFAMILIAR TO EITHER SERGEANT MULVANEY OR JOE... BUT TO BE CONFRONTED WITH A SIMILAR TRAGEDY, UNDER WHAT WOULD SEEM TO BE LESS EXPLAINABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, WAS SOMETHING TERRIFYINGLY NEW. OUR STORY OPENS THE DAY MULVANEY AND JOE WERE REPAIRING SOME POWER LINES AT THE CAMP HOSPITAL...



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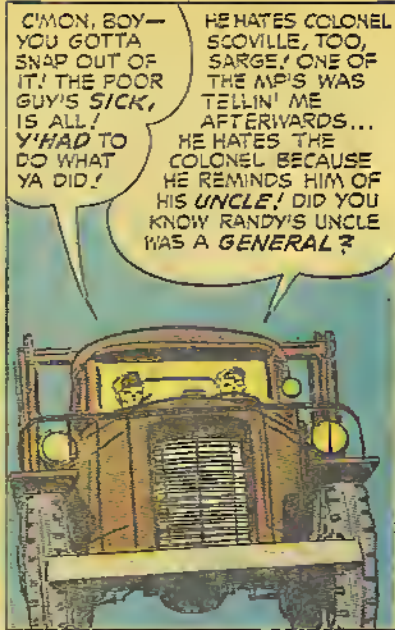
WHAT'S A MATTER, BURCH? YOU BEEN DRAGGIN' YER KEEL ALL DAY! SOMETHIN' EATIN' AT YA?

I'M OKAY, SARGE... IT'S JUST THAT I CAN'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT THAT POOR RANDY MARSH!



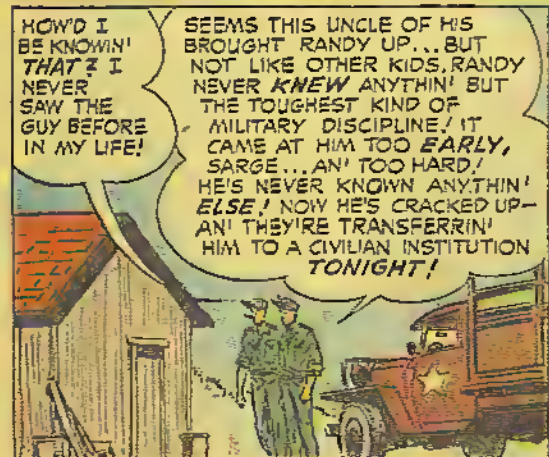
THE PSYCHO WHAT TRIED TO MAKE A BREAK FER IT AT THE HOSPITAL?

EYES FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! IT WAS LIKE HE HATED ME... AN' I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM!



C'MON, BOY— YOU GOTTA SNAP OUT OF IT! THE POOR GUY'S SICK, IS ALL! Y'HAD TO DO WHAT YA DID!

HE HATES COLONEL SCOVILLE, TOO, SARGE! ONE OF THE MP'S WAS TELLIN' ME AFTERWARDS... HE HATES THE COLONEL BECAUSE HE REMINDS HIM OF HIS UNCLE! DID YOU KNOW RANDY'S UNCLE WAS A GENERAL?

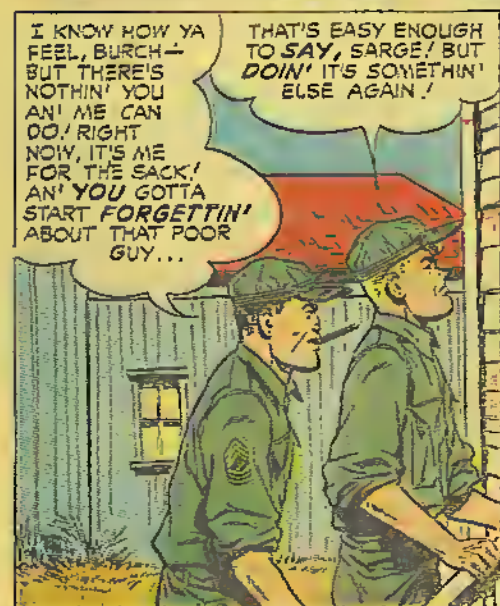


HOW'D I BE KNOWN! THAT? I NEVER SAW THE GUY BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

SEEMS THIS UNCLE OF HIS BROUGHT RANDY UP... BUT NOT LIKE OTHER KIDS. RANDY NEVER *KNEW* ANYTHIN' BUT THE TOUGHEST KIND OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE! IT CAME AT HIM TOO EARLY, SARGE... AN' TOO HARD! HE'S NEVER KNOWN ANYTHIN' ELSE! NOW HE'S CRACKED UP— AN' THEY'RE TRANSFERRIN' HIM TO A CIVILIAN INSTITUTION TONIGHT!



GOSH, I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM! THERE WAS MORE THAN JUST HATE IN HIS EYES! THERE WAS— I REMEMBER SEENIN' A RACCOON ONCE BACK HOME... CORNERED BY A BUNCH OF DOGS. THAT LITTLE ANIMAL'S EYES LOOKED JUST LIKE RANDY'S DID! BIGGER THAN ALL THE HATE WAS THAT AWFUL HELPLESSNESS... AND FEAR! RANDY'S SCARED, SARGE— AN' IT SURE AIN'T PRETTY!



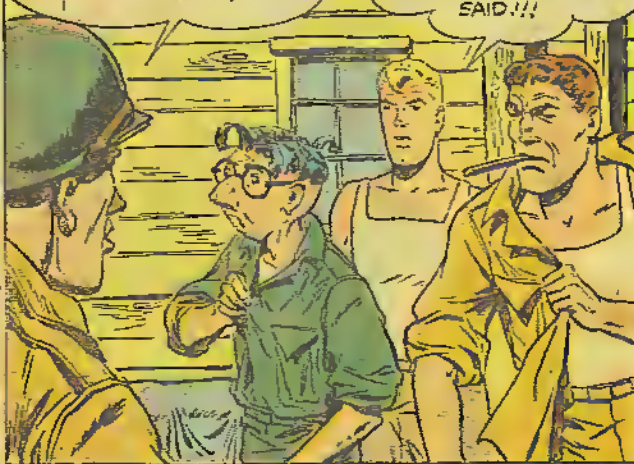
I KNOW HOW YA FEEL, BURCH— BUT THERE'S NOTHIN' YOU AN' ME CAN DO! RIGHT NOW, IT'S ME FOR THE SACK! AN' YOU GOTTA START FORGETTIN' ABOUT THAT POOR GUY...

THAT'S EASY ENOUGH TO SAY, SARGE! BUT DOIN' IT'S SOMETHIN' ELSE AGAIN!

MUCH LATER, THE SAME NIGHT...

ARRIGHT, YOU GUYS — HIT TH' FLOOR! THERE'S BEEN AN ESCAPE OVER AT TH' PSYCHO WARD! THE WHOLE CAMP'S ON THE ALERT!

THAT'S NOBODY ELSE BUT RANDY, SARGE! HE'S DONE IT! NOW HE'S OUT TO MAKE GOOD ON WHAT HE SAID!!!



MINUTES LATER...

HADN'T SOMEBODY BETTER WARN COLONEL SCOVILLE, SARGE? MAYBE HE DON'T KNOW IT'S HIM RANDY'S AFTER!

YER RIGHT, BURCH! PILE IN!

THE REST O' YOU GUYS GET OVER TO THE WAREHOUSE! YOU'LL GET YER INSTRUCTIONS THERE!



HOW'D HE MAKE THE BREAK, SARGE? THE MP'S SAID THEY WEREN'T LETTIN' RANDY OUTA THEIR SIGHT UNTIL HE WAS MOVED!

THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE DOIN'! TRANSFERRIN' HIM TO A CIVILIAN AMBULANCE AT THE MAIN GATE! HE SLUGGED A GUARD... DIDN'T EVEN TRY FER OUTSIDE! TOOK OFF BACK IN- TO CAMP!



AND AFTER A FAST, BREATHLESS RIDE...

THERE'S THE COLONEL NOW, BURCH! LOOKS LIKE HE ALREADY KNOWS WHAT'S UP!

HE MAY NOT KNOW ALL OF IT!

COLONEL SCOVILLE SIR...!



BUT MOMENTS LATER...

I'VE NO TIME TO LISTEN TO ANY MORE SUCH RUBBISH, PRIVATE! THERE'S AN ESCAPED PSYCHOPATH IN THIS CAMP- AND IT'S MY DUTY TO SEE THAT HE'S FOUND!

BUT COLONEL! IF RANDY COMES FACE TO FACE WITH YOU, THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHAT--



'RANDY?' JUST HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN, PRIVATE?

ENOUGH TO KNOW WHY HE BROKE OUT, SIR! AND FRIGHTENING HIM WITH A LOTTA SIRENS AN' SEARCHLIGHTS ISN'T GOIN' TO--

COLONEL SCOVILLE, SIR...!



...THE PRISONER'S BEEN SIGHTED! HE'S UP ON THE WATER TOWER IN THE SOUTH FIELD! HE-HE'S THREATENING TO JUMP!

SOUTH FIELD WATER TOWER, DRIVER- AT ONCE!



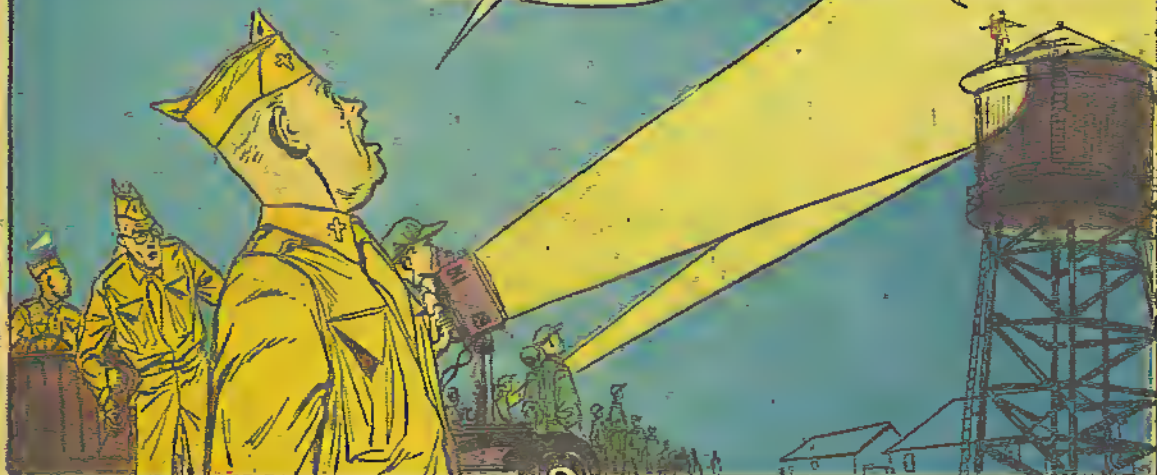
DIDJA HEAR THAT, SARGE? THEY'VE GOT RANDY CORNERED! WE GOTTA GET DOWN THERE FAST !!!



MEANWHILE, AT SOUTH FIELD...

RANDY—YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME, BOY! NOBODY'S GOING TO HARM YOU—I GIVE YOU MY WORD! BUT YOU'VE GOT TO COME DOWN!

SAVE THE PEP-TALK, PADRE! ANYBODY TRIES COMIN' UP HERE AFTER ME—AN' I JUMP! YOU KNOW BY NOW I MEAN WHAT I SAY!



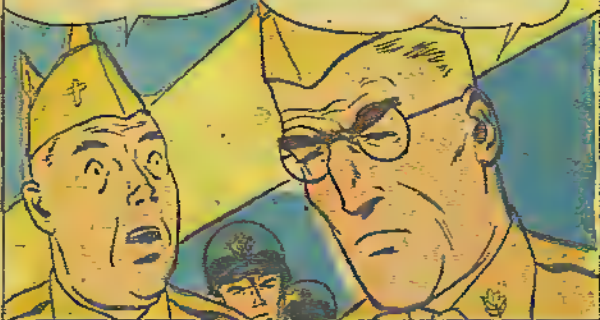
TRY TO BE REASONABLE, RANDY! YOU CAN'T HOPE TO STAY UP THERE INDEFINITELY! WE WANT TO HELP YOU, SON! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

THERE HE IS! THAT'S THE MAN I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR! OKAY—TAKE A GOOD LOOK, COLONEL SCOVILLE—SIR! 'CAUSE IT'S GOIN' TO BE YOUR LAST!!



HE KEEPS DEMANDING TO SEE YOU, COLONEL... BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S WISE! FOR SOME REASON, YOU'RE THE TARGET OF ALL HIS CONFUSION!

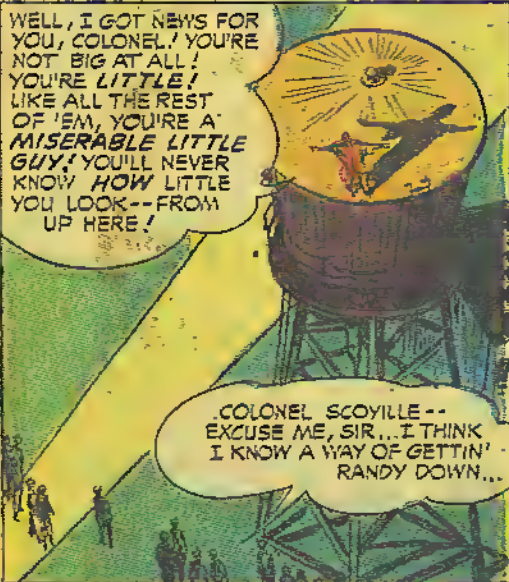
NONSENSE, CHAPLAIN! I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM! NOT PERSONALLY, THAT IS! I KNEW HIS 'UNCLE, GENERAL MARSH... BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY. HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY--



WHAT'S THE MATTER, COLONEL SCOVILLE? WHY AREN'T YOU STRUTTIN' AROUND SO EVERYBODY CAN SEE YOU? THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, ISN'T IT? FOR EVERYBODY TO KNOW HOW BIG YOU ARE?



WELL, I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, COLONEL! YOU'RE NOT BIG AT ALL! YOU'RE LITTLE! LIKE ALL THE REST OF 'EM, YOU'RE A MISERABLE LITTLE GUY! YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW LITTLE YOU LOOK--FROM UP HERE!



COLONEL SCOVILLE-- EXCUSE ME, SIR... I THINK I KNOW A WAY OF GETTIN' RANDY DOWN...

IF YOU COULD
ORDER OUT A
HELICOPTER,
SIR, MAYBE--

EXCELLENT, PRIVATE! WE
SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF
THAT BEFORE!

COLONEL, IF I CAN GET
CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE BOY
TO CALM HIM, I THINK WE'LL
GET RESULTS!

AND NOT MUCH LATER...

HERE SHE COMES, COLONEL!
AN' FROM THE WAY HE'S
FLYIN' HER, THAT'S LOFTY
COLLINS AT THE CONTROLS!
AIN'T NOBODY BETTER
WITH A WHIRLY-BIRD
THAN LOFTY!

USE EVERY PRECAUTION,
CHAPLAIN-- BUT I
WANT THAT MAN
BROUGHT DOWN!

I HOPE TO
CONVINCE HIM
HE SHOULD COME
DOWN UNDER HIS
OWN POWER,
COLONEL. ANY
ATTEMPT AT
FORCE WOULD
PROBABLY BE
FATAL!

GOOD EVENIN',
PADRE...

I PRAY THAT
IT WILL BE,
COLLINS, AND
MUCH OF IT'S
GOING TO
DEPEND ON
YOU!

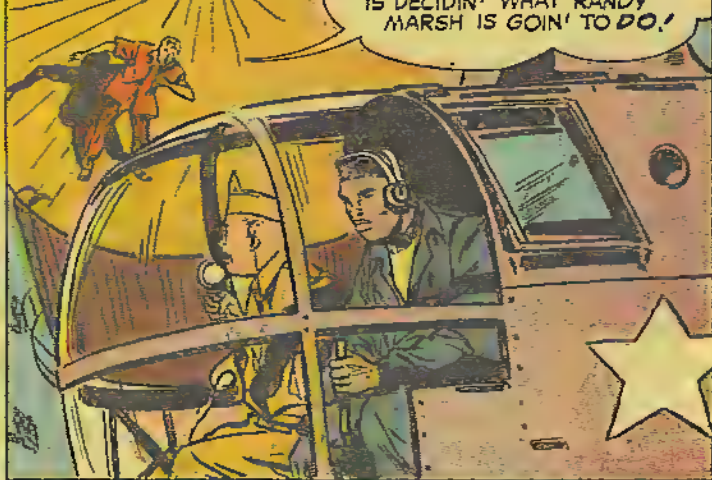
GOSH, I HOPE THIS
WORKS, SARGE--
BUT NOW I'M NOT
SO SURE! RANDY'S
AWFUL WORKED UP!
LOOK AT HIM!

OKAY, COLONEL SCOVILLE--
I'M READY FOR YOU, I'VE GOT
YOURSELF A GOOD SEAT
FOR WHEN I JUMP, DIDN'T
YOU-- SIR?

RANDY—CAN YOU **HEAR** ME, BOY? THIS IS THE CHAPLAIN! YOU **MUST** LISTEN TO ME, RANDY! THINK BACK TO SOME OF THE TALKS WE'VE HAD... REMEMBER YOUR **UNCLE** AND THE GREAT TRADITIONS HE STANDS FOR...



DON'T GIVE ME THAT 'TRADITION' ROUTINE AGAIN, PADRE! I'M FED TO THE TEETH WITH IT! I'M MAKIN' SOME TRADITIONS OF MY OWN NOW! FOR THE **FIRST TIME, RANDY MARSH IS DECIDIN' WHAT RANDY MARSH IS GOIN' TO DO!**



I DON'T DARE TAKE HER IN ANY CLOSER, PADRE! THE PROP-WASH WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SEND HIM FLYIN'!

ALL RIGHT— JUST HOLD HER WHERE SHE IS, COLLINS! I'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN...



BUT ENDLESS MINUTES LATER...

THIS IS GETTING US NO PLACE! ORDER THAT HELICOPTER **DOWN!** WE'LL SEND UP ONE WITH A **HOIST!** WE'LL BRING THAT MAN DOWN IF I HAVE TO GO UP THERE MYSELF!



I'VE HAD **ENOUGH** OF THIS PAMPERING NONSENSE, MARSH! IF YOU'RE NOT ON THAT LADDER WITHIN THE NEXT **TEN SECONDS--**

COLONEL...!



... HE CAN'T HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING— BUT **THIS** IS WHAT'S SCARIN' HIM!

WHAT IS THE **MEANING** OF THIS...?



TELL THAT 'COPTER TO **STAY WHERE IT IS!** NOW I KNOW HOW TO GET RANDY DOWN!

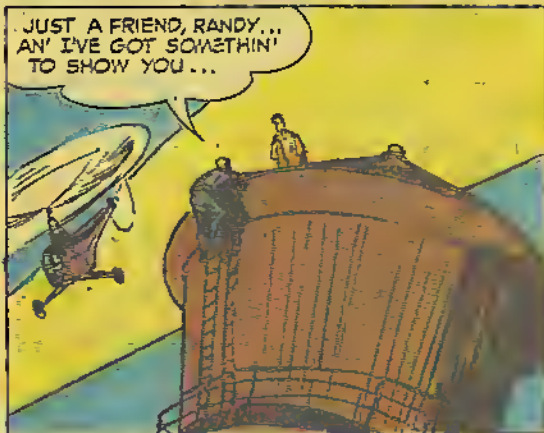




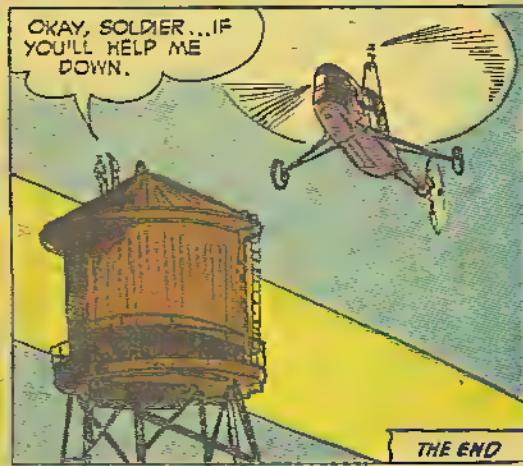
AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNAL CLIMB...

I'LL SHOW YOU I CAN MAKE DECISIONS! YOU DON'T BELIEVE I'LL JUMP, DO YOU, PADRE? WELL, I'M GOIN' TO SHOW YOU I MEAN WHAT I SAY!

RANDY...



NOBODY'S GOIN' TO BE WAVIN' STICKS AT YOU, RANDY... NOT ANY MORE! AN' YOU'RE GOIN' TO BE ALL RIGHT! WILL YOU BELIEVE THAT?



THE END

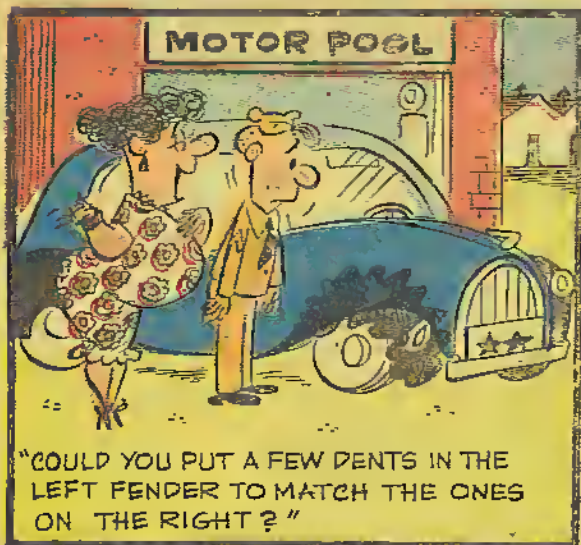
KHAKI FUN



VIC
MARTIN



"ANYBODY HERE AN ARCHEOLOGIST?"



"COULD YOU PUT A FEW DENTS IN THE LEFT FENDER TO MATCH THE ONES ON THE RIGHT?"



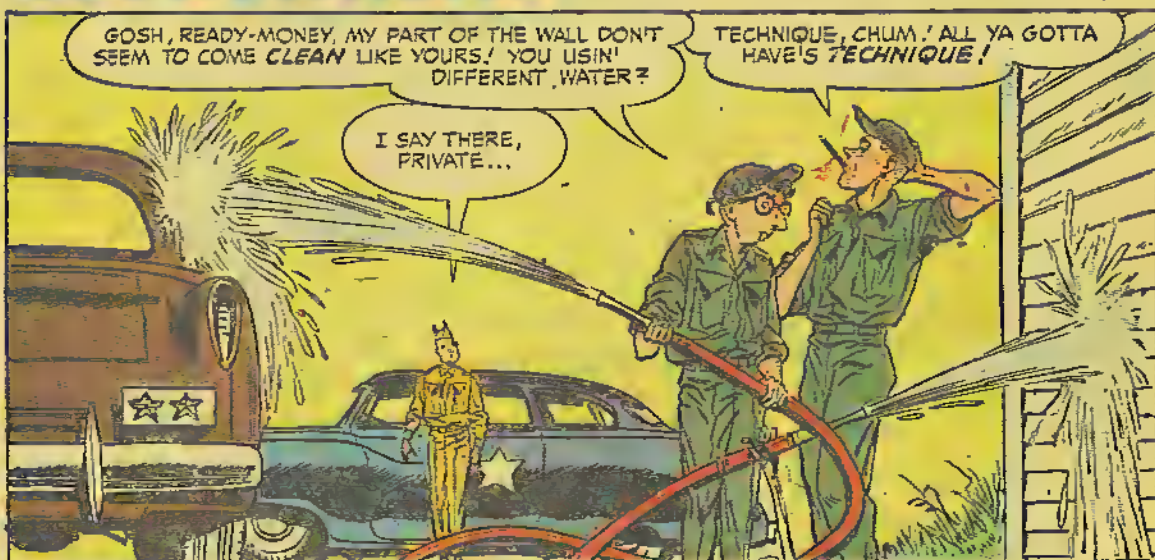
"THE SARGE IS VERY MAD AT ME. DO YOU SELL PEACE PIPES?"

G.I. Joe

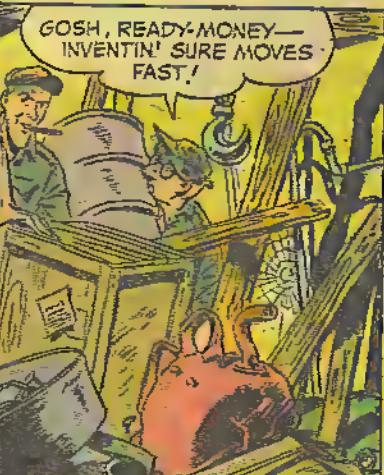
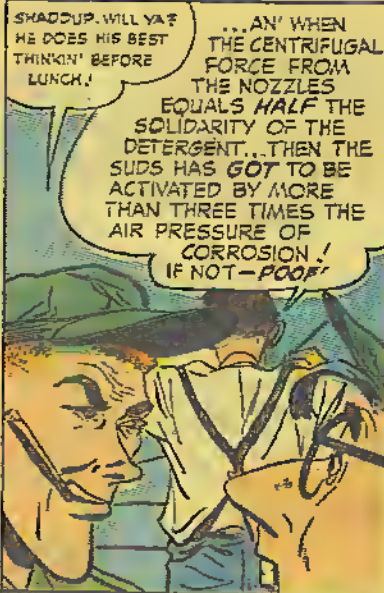
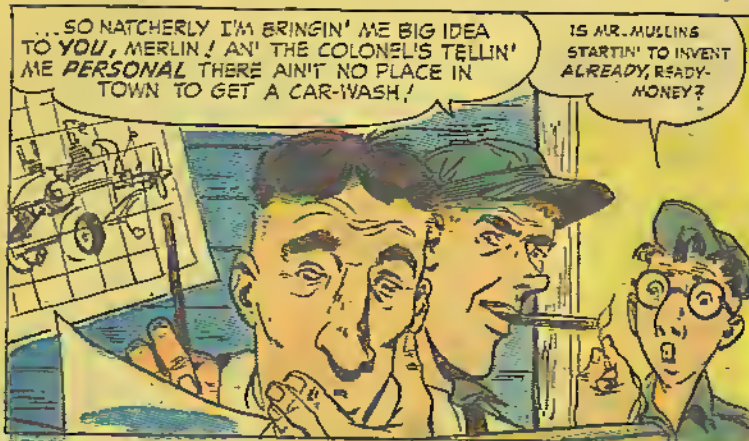
in

BLUE MONDAY

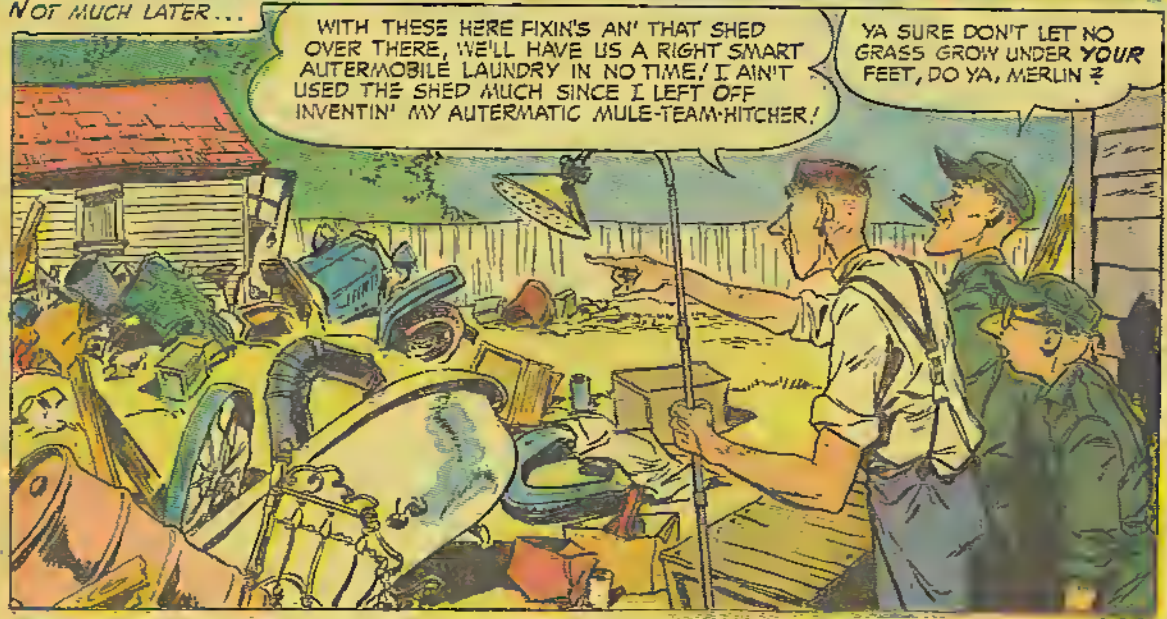
GETTING HIS FINGERS ON A FAST BUCK IS USUALLY "DUCK-SOUP" FOR READY-MONEY REILLY...BUT PIN-FEATHERS AND SOAPSUDS ARE TWO INGREDIENTS THAT SHOULD BE STIRRED IN WITH CARE! OUR STORY OPENS THE DAY REILLY AND UGLY OTIS WERE ORDERED TO HOSE DOWN THE COMPANY WAREHOUSE...



THE NEXT MORNING, AT MERLIN MULLINS' GENERAL STORE...



NOT MUCH LATER...

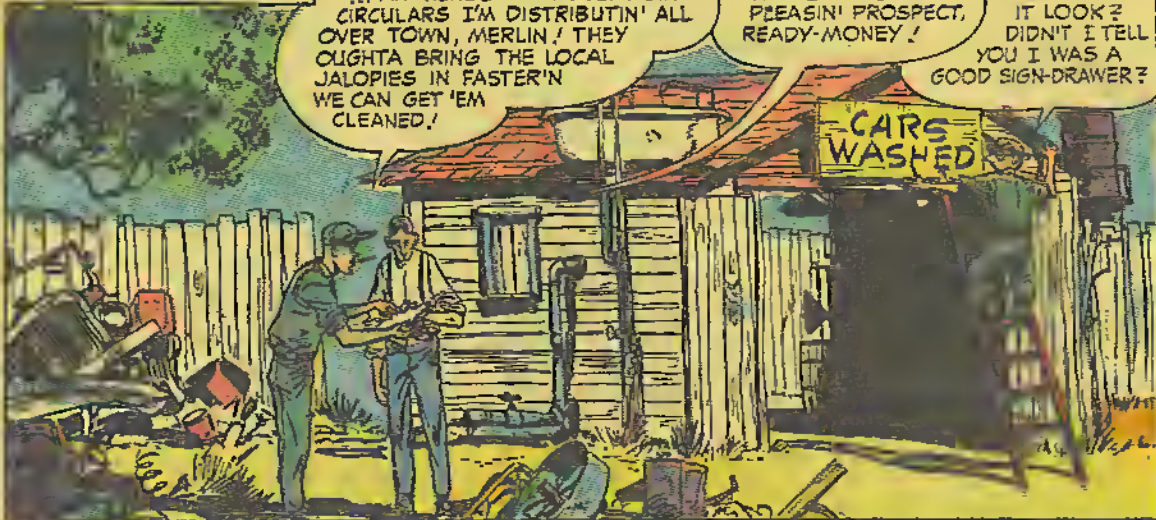


ABOUT A WEEK LATER...

... AN' HERE'S THE ADVERTISIN' CIRCULARS I'M DISTRIBUTIN' ALL OVER TOWN, MERLIN! THEY OUGHTA BRING THE LOCAL JALOPIES IN FASTER'N WE CAN GET 'EM CLEANED!

THAT'S A RIGHT PLEASIN' PROSPECT, READY-MONEY!

HEY! HOW'S IT LOOK? DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WAS A GOOD SIGN-DRAWER?



IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BATHTUB I'VE EVER SEEN!

I BEEN THINKIN', READY-MONEY... MEBBE WE'D OUGHTER SEND SOMETHIN' THROUGH TO SEE HOW IT WORKS, AFORE WE LET GO WITH THEM CIRCULARS.

HM-MMM...



... I THINK YA GOT SOMETHIN' THERE, MERLIN.

SURE THING, READY-MONEY- BUT I PUT A WHOLE PILE...

HEY, UGLY! TAKE A LOOK OUT BACK AN' MAKE SURE WE GOT PLENTY O' TOWELS FER DRYIN' OFF!



... OUT THERE THIS-- **ULP!**

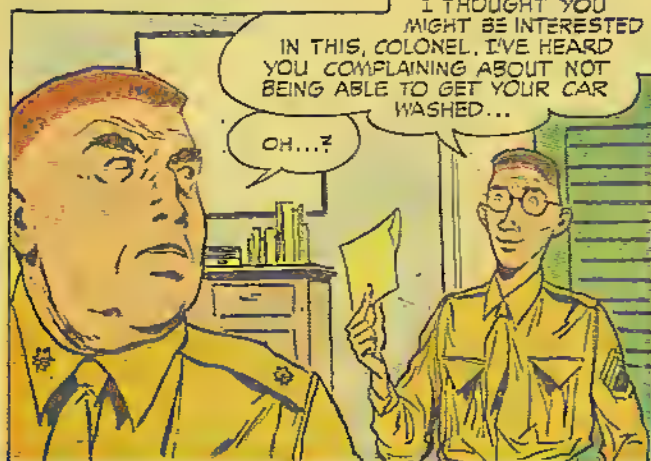


I M-MUST'VE STEPPED ON SOMETHIN' WRONG, READY-MONEY! G-GOSH, I'M SORRY! HOPE I DIDN'T BREAK NOTHIN'!

NO HARM DONE, CHUM! FERGIT IT! C'MON-WE GOTTA GET BUSY WITH DISTRIBUTIN' CIRCULARS, NOW THAT WE'RE OPEN FER BUSINESS!



AT CAMP, A FEW DAYS LATER...



**READY-MONEY REILLY'S
AUTOMATIC CAR-WASH**
NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
PRICES - REASONABLE!
SERVICE - FAST!
DRIVE IN LIKE YOU ARE. DRIVE
OFF LIKE NEW! NO WAITING!
LOCATED JUST BEHIND HUMBOLDT
GENERAL STORE. COME ONE
CLEANED!!!

THIS IS THE OUTLAW WHO TRIED TO ROB ME!!! SERGEANT! I WANT THIS-THIS CONNING SWINDLER'S ESTABLISHMENT DECLARED OFF LIMITS! OFF LIMITS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? HAVE IT POSTED AT ONCE!!!

Y-YES, SIR!!!



AND A LITTLE LATER, THE SAME DAY...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, READY-MONEY? DOES IT SAY SOMETHING BAD?

NOTHIN' I WOULDN'T EXPECT FROM SOME-BODY WHAT'S GOT NO BUSINESS ETHICS!

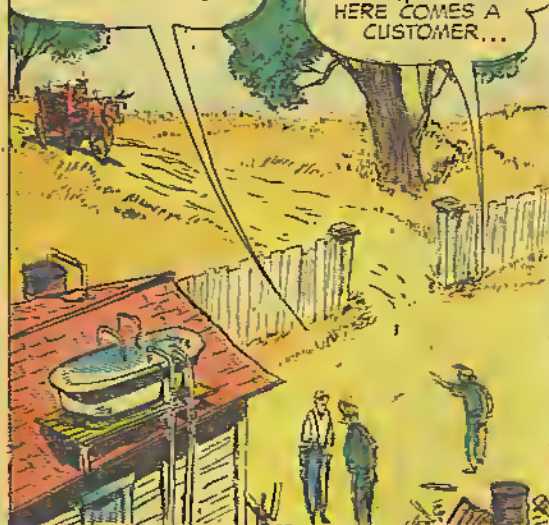
C'MON - WE'LL GO SEE MERLIN...



LATER...

...BUT WITHOUT GETTIN' NO TRADE FROM YER CAMP, READY-MONEY, I'M THINKIN' OUR BUSINESS ENTERPRISE IS RIGHT WOBBLY! FOLKS WHAT'S GOT CARS 'ROUND HERE, DON'T GO MUCH FER KEEPIN' 'EM SLICKED UP!

READY-MONEY-LOOK! MAYBE HERE COMES A CUSTOMER...



AFTERNOON, FRIEND! ANYTHIN' WE CAN BE DOIN' FER YA?

AIN'T FIGGERED OUT EFFEN I'M A-GOIN' TO ASK Y'ANYTHIN'--YET!



SOMEWHAT LATER...

IT'S A RIGHT **PECULIAR-**
LOOKIN' CONTRAPTION— BUT I AIN'T ONE NOT
TO GO ALONG WITH TH' TIMES.

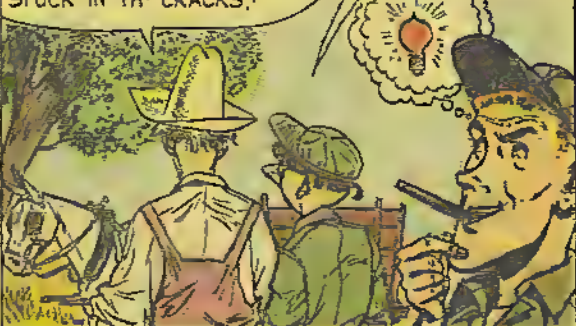
THAT SIGN UP THERE MEAN
WHUT IT SAYS ?

IT SURE
DOES, NEIGHBOR!
Y'AIN'T NEVER
HAD A CAR-WASH
LIKE WHAT WE'LL--



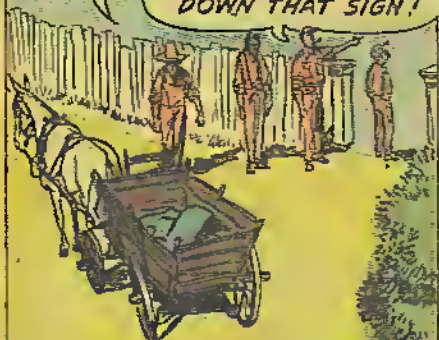
I AIN'T **NEEDIN'** A CAR-WASH, !
I AIN'T GOT A **CAR** ! I WAS
FIGGERIN' ON ASKIN' EFFEN
YOU'D BE WILLIN' TO GIVE ME
WAGON A NICE SUDSY GOIN'
OVER ! GOT A LOTTA FEED
STUCK IN TH' CRACKS, !

OH, WE'LL BE
GLAD TO WASH
IT, MISTER ! WE
WASH ANYTHIN'
THAT **MOVES** !



I'LL GO FETCH ME RIG
THEN... AN' MIND YER
CAREFUL WITH TH'
SPOKES, !

UGLY— YA
JUST GIMME
TH' **BIG IDEA**
WHAT'S GONNA
SAVE OUR BUSINESS !
GET UP THERE AN' **TAKE**
DOWN THAT SIGN !



BUT, HOW IS GOIN' **OUT**
OF BUSINESS GOIN'
TO **SAVE** IT ?

DO LIKE I TELL YA ! WHILE
YOU'RE WASHIN' THE WAGON,
MERLIN AN' ME IS GONNA MAKE
ANOTHER SIGN, ! NOW, STEP ON IT, !

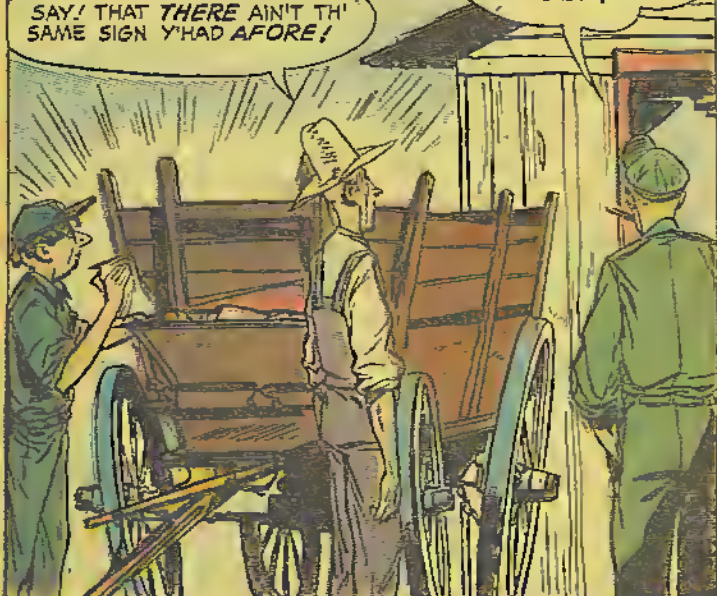


A LITTLE LATER...

Y'GOT A GOOD
LI'L SOAPSDUDSER
WORKIN' FER YOU, FRIEND ! HERE'S
YER TWENTY-FIVE CENTS ..

SAY ! THAT **THERE** AIN'T TH'
SAME SIGN Y'HAD AFORE !

THAT'S RIGHT...
HEH-HEH ! WE
DECIDED TO DO A
LITTLE **BRANCHIN'**
OUT !



EFFEN I'D-A-KNOWED
THAT I MIGHT'VE
LET YA--WELL, NO
TIME NOW, I'LL
COME BACK
ANOTHER DAY...

DID YOU
HEAR **THAT**,
READY-MONEY ?
WE GOT A REAL
CUSTOMER-
AN' HE SAYS
HE'S **COMIN'**
BACK !!!



THE NEXT DAY...

...SO IT AIN'T
ENOUGH JEST ADDIN' NOTRIGEN
FER BUOYANCY! Y'GOTTA MIX
IT WITH...

RIGHT!

READY-MONEY!
YOU GOTTA
COME OUTSIDE—
QUICK!!!

OH—NO!!!

W-W-W-E GOTTA
W-W-WASH 'EM!!!



I SORTA LET WORD GIT 'ROUND 'BOUT WHUT A
GOOD JOB Y'DID FER ME YESTERDAY, SOLDIER!
WHAT WITH YER NEW SIGN 'N' EVERYTHIN',
I'M FIGGERIN' ON LETTIN' Y'GIVE ME
MULE A GOOD SCRUB TODAY!

I WAS HERE FIRST
AN' I'M A-GETTIN'
CORA-SUE RINSED
OUT FIRST!

CHICKENS
NEEDS TO
BE A LOT
CLEANER'N
A SMELLY
OLD GOAT!

YER BOTH
A-GOIN'
THROUGH
EFFEN I
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH
WITH YA!



WELL ???
YOU FIGGERIN'
MAKIN' GOOD
ON YER
ADVERTISING?

GET THE WATER
STARTED, UGLY...

AN' MERLIN—
FER TH' LUVVA,
PETE TAKE
DOWN THAT
SIGN!



AND LATE INTO THAT NIGHT...



THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

'WHEW!' NEVER THOUGHT WE'D FINISH, READY-MONEY! BUT IT WASN'T **TOO BAD!**

TOO BAD? IT WAS **AWFUL!!** AN' IT WAS ALL **YOUR FAULT!** OTIS! GET OUT—**YOU'RE FIRED!!**



AND SOME MINUTES LATER...

HOW FAST CAN YOU GIVE THIS JEEP A RUN-THROUGH FOR ME? I'M OVERDUE NOW OUT AT CAMP HUMBOLDT, BUT I CAN'T CHECK MY COMPANY IN LOOKING LIKE THIS! BEEN ON THE ROAD ALMOST A WEEK!

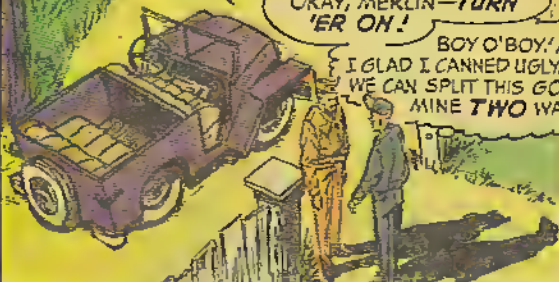
Y'WON'T HAVE TIME TO SMOKE A CIGARETTE BEFORE WE'VE GOT 'ER LOOKIN' LIKE NEW! AN' FER YOU, SIR—I'LL MAKE YA A SPECIAL PRICE OF ONLY **FOUR-BITS!**



IF YOUR WORK IS SATISFACTORY, ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO TAKE ON SOME **MORE BUSINESS?**

CAPTAIN, YER DEALIN' WITH TH' **CREAM OF TH' INDUSTRY!** WE CAN **HANDLE EVERYTHIN'** YOU'VE GOT!

OKAY, MERLIN—**TURN 'ER ON!**



BOY O'BOY, AM I GLAD I CANNED UGLY! NOW WE CAN SPLIT THIS GOLD MINE **TWO WAYS!**

NOT LONG AFTER...

IT'S A GOOD WASH JOB, SOLDIER! I'LL GO GET MY OUTFIT-- IT'S A COUPLE OF MILES BEHIND. NOW, YOU'RE **SURE YOU CAN HANDLE TWENTY-FIVE VEHICLES-- AND AT THE SAME PRICE?**

JUST HAVE 'EM DRIVE UP, CAPTAIN! JUST HAVE 'EM **DRIVE UP!!!**



AND FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...



THE END

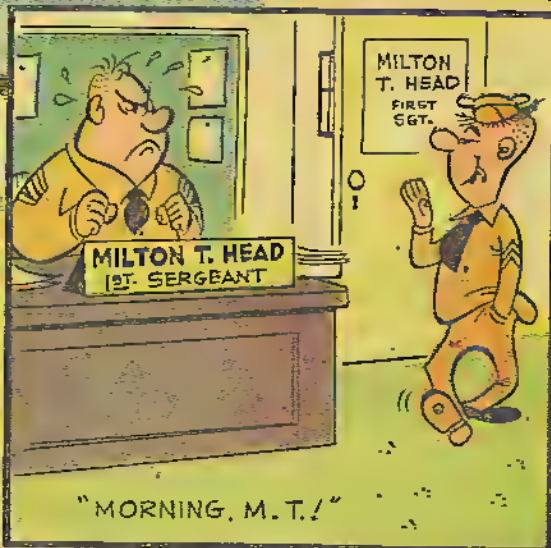
ARMY LIFE



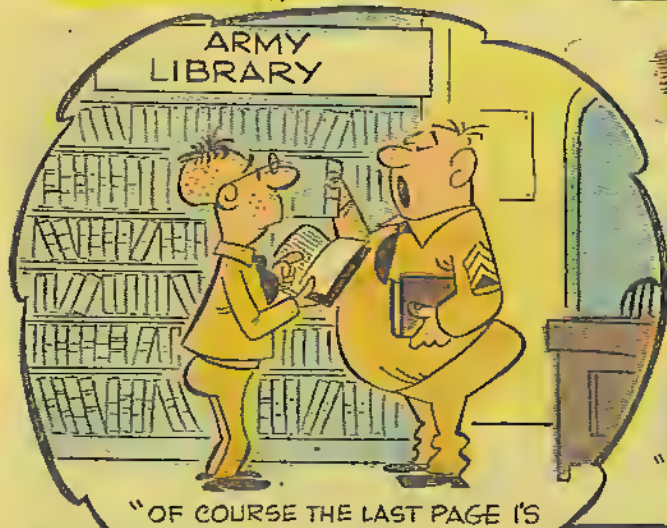
VIC
MARTIN



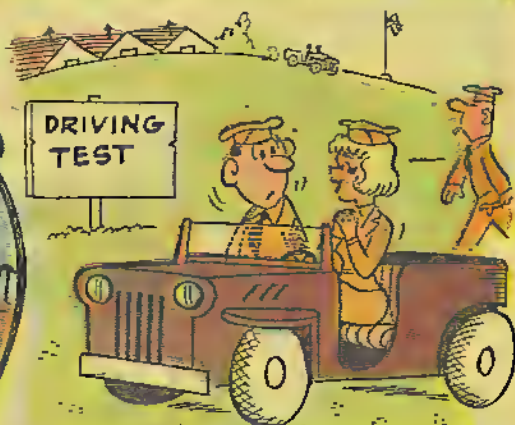
"IF THAT SNODGRASS DOES ONE MORE THING
TO ANNOY ME TODAY, I THINK I'LL EXPLODE"



"MORNING, M. T.!"



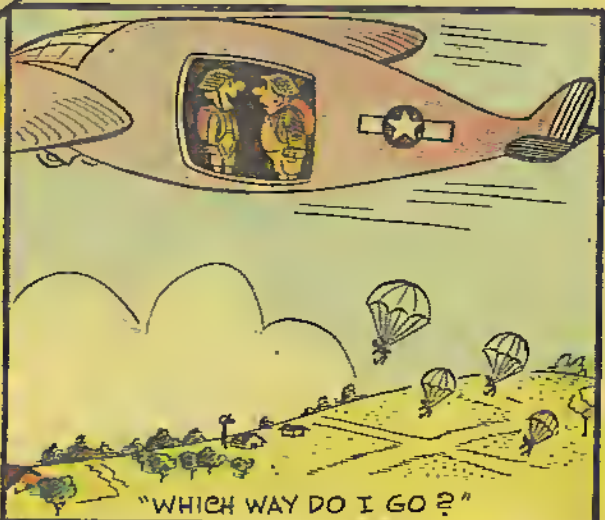
"OF COURSE THE LAST PAGE IS
BLANK... IT'S A MYSTERY
STORY!"



"WHEN DO I LEARN TO BLAST THE
HORN?"



"CONGRATULATIONS, SARGE — YOU'RE THE
FIRST MAN EVER TO BE THROWN OUT OF A
ZOO FOR FRIGHTENING THE LIONS"



"WHICH WAY DO I GO?"

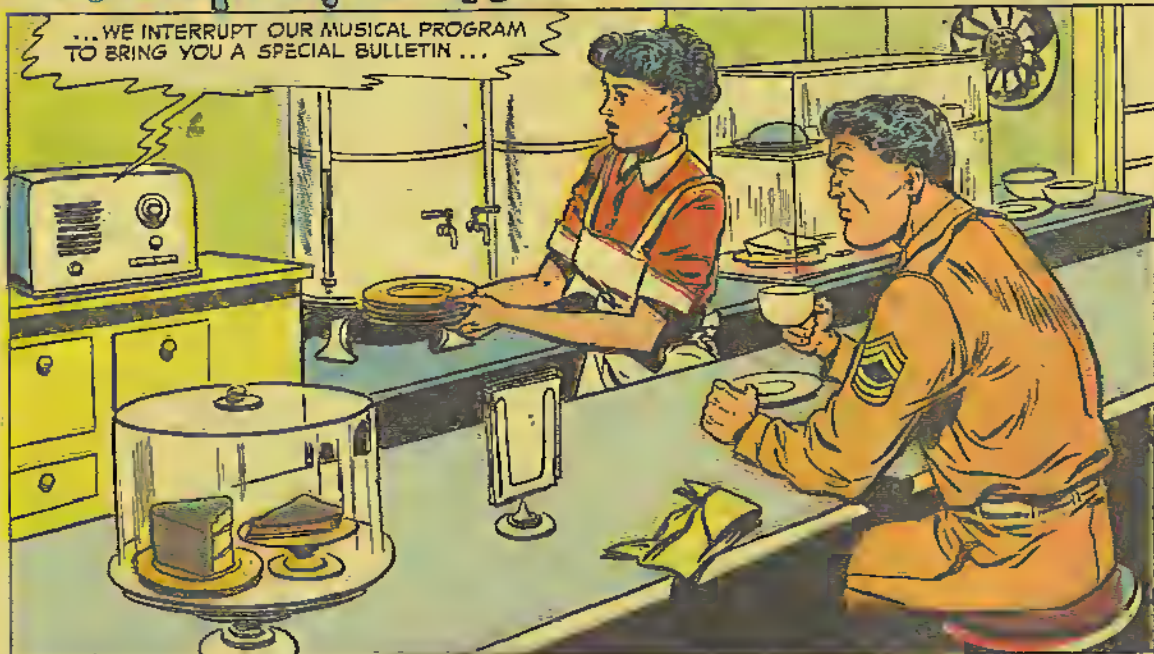
G.I. Joe

in

A Cup of Coffee

"MY NAME IS LINDA CARTER. I'M NOT FAMOUS OR IMPORTANT OR ANYTHING, AND MY STORY ISN'T EITHER, BUT I THINK IT SHOULD BE TOLD IF ONLY AS A TRIBUTE TO 'COURAGE'—THE COURAGE OF A MAN. HE WAS A COMPLETE STRANGER TO ME THE NIGHT HE WALKED INTO THE SMALL DINER I OWN NOT FAR FROM CAMP HUMBOLDT. I HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE I'D EVER COME TO KNOW THIS TALL ARMY SERGEANT BEYOND SERVING HIM THE COFFEE HE ORDERED, AND REMEMBERING HIS SMILE, BUT THEN I HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE THIS NIGHT WAS TO BE AN ETERNITY OF TERROR! TERROR THAT STRUCK WITH A MERE HANDFUL OF FACELESS WORDS..."

...WE INTERRUPT OUR MUSICAL PROGRAM TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL BULLETIN...



...CARL "FINGERS" SHEEDY, CONVICTED BANK-ROBBER, HAS ESCAPED FROM THE STATE PENITENTIARY IN WHAT AUTHORITIES DESCRIBE AS ONE OF THE MOST DARING PRISON BREAKS ON RECORD! YOU ARE URGED TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR THIS MAN, BUT TO USE **EXTREME CAUTION.** HE IS ARMED... AND DANGEROUS! A DESCRIPTION FOLLOWS...

WHATSA MATTER, LITTLE LADY??



Y-YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE, SERGEANT! RIGHT AWAY! I-I'M SORRY... BUT I HAVE TO CLOSE UP!!!



"THERE WASN'T TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS! COULDN'T HE SEE? THERE WASN'T TIME FOR ANYTHING—EXCEPT GETTING AWAY FROM THERE AS FAST AS I COULD..."

PLEASE! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! NOW! AND SO DO YOU!

"OH, WHAT WAS THE MATTER WITH HIM? HOW COULD I GIVE HIM THE REASONS? HOW COULD I MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND? THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE WAS SMILING AT ME... AND HIS VOICE WAS QUIET AND STEADY—AND STRONG..."

PLEASE, SERGEANT!

LADY, I **PAYED** FER MY COFFEE AN' I DON'T AIM TO SIT HERE DRINKIN' IT IN THE DARK!



IT'S WHAT YOU HEARD ON THE RADIO, AIN'T IT? IT'S THAT CHARACTER WHAT'S ESCAPED FROM THE PEN!



"THE NEXT INSTANT, I HEARD MYSELF BABBLING LIKE A HELPLESS CHILD..."

Y-YES! IT'S CARL! HE'LL BE COMING HERE—I **KNOW** IT! HE MUSTN'T FIND ME! HE-HE **MUSTN'T FIND YOU!**



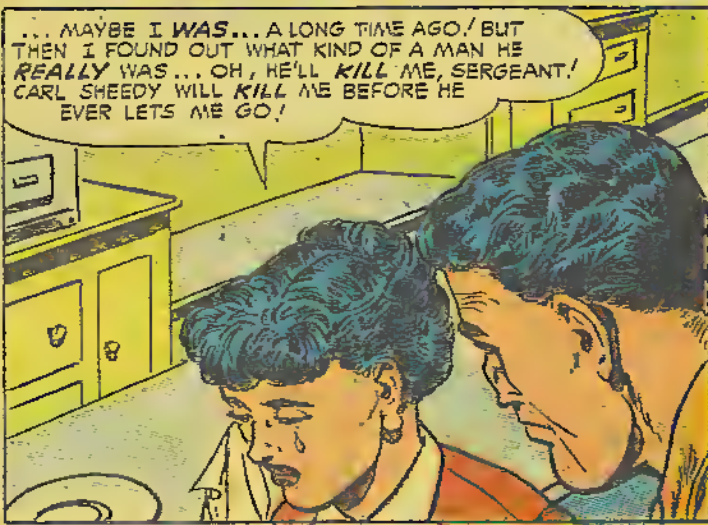
YEAH? WELL, I'VE TANGLED WITH TRIGGER-HAPPY HOODS BEFORE! NOW, S'POSE YOU GIMME THE LOWDOWN, LITTLE LADY...



"I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HIM! I KNEW THAT—EVEN WHILE I HEARD THE WORDS POURING OUT, I'D TRIED **DESPERATELY**—AND FOR 50 LONG—TO FORGET IT! TO KEEP THE WHOLE TOWN FROM EVER FINDING OUT! AND NOW I WAS BLURTING THE WHOLE TERRIBLE STORY—TO A **STRANGER!**"

... MAYBE I WAS... A LONG TIME AGO! BUT THEN I FOUND OUT WHAT KIND OF A MAN HE **REALLY** WAS... OH, HE'LL **KILL** ME, SERGEANT! CARL SHEEDY WILL **KILL** ME BEFORE HE EVER LETS ME GO!

I-I THOUGHT I WAS IN LOVE WITH CARL SHEEDY! I GUESS...



"SOMEHOW - ALTHOUGH IT WAS LIKE RUBBING SALT INTO AN OPEN WOUND - I MANAGED TO GET THE REST OF IT SAID..."

LONG BEFORE CARL HELD UP THE BANK, I KNEW THAT WHATEVER FEELING I'D EVER HAD FOR HIM WAS DEAD! BUT I WAS TOO AFRAID OF HIM TO TELL HIM! HE THREATENED ALL KINDS OF THINGS! THEN, AFTER HE WAS ARRESTED AND I MET NED--

NED?

I-I FINALLY WORKED UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO WRITE CARL IN THE PENITENTIARY... TELL HIM I WAS IN LOVE WITH A MAN IN THE SERVICE. I DIDN'T TELL HIM WHO IT WAS...

...BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LETTER CARL WROTE BACK! HE SAID I'D BETTER WAIT FOR HIM--OR ELSE! THERE WAS A LOT MORE...

NOW DO YOU SEE WHY I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE?

THE BOY I AM IN LOVE WITH!

HERE'S HIS PICTURE. HE'S STATIONED OUT IN THE PACIFIC NOW...

DON'T YOU SEE THAT IT'S ME CARL'S COMING FOR? THAT'S WHY HE'S BROKEN OUT! HE WON'T GIVE ME UP! HE TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO IF I EVER TRIED TO RUN OUT ON HIM HE'D--

"THEN I HEARD IT! I GUESS WE BOTH HEARD IT AT THE SAME TIME! THE STEALTHY BUT UNMISTAKABLE CRUNCH OF FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL OUTSIDE THE DINER..."

"AND TERROR SUCH AS I'D NEVER KNOWN WAS HAMMERING ITS WAY INTO ME..."

GET BACK!

"...AS I WATCHED THE FRONT DOORKNOB SILENTLY BEGIN TO TURN!"

"IT WAS CARL! IN THE FLASH OF A DREADFUL SECOND, HE WAS INSIDE THE DINER... AND, BEHIND HIM, I COULD HEAR THE CLICK OF THE LOCK..."

HELLO, BABY! S'PRISED TO SEE ME?



"THEN HE WAS IN FRONT OF US, AND EXCEPT FOR HIS PRISON CLOTHES, HE LOOKED JUST THE SAME AS WHEN I'D SEEN HIM LAST... BIG... FILLED WITH A RASPING SELF-CONFIDENCE... FRIGHTENINGLY REAL..."

I BEEN KINDA ANXIOUS TO MEET UP WITH YOU, LOVER-BOY! I DON'T LIKE GUYS WHAT GOT NO RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY!

CARL! THIS ISN'T THE MAN I WROTE YOU ABOUT!



DON'T GIMME THAT! WHAT'S HE DOIN' IN UNIFORM THEN? WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE? HE-HE JUST CAME IN FOR COFFEE! HE'S FROM CAMP HUMBERT! THERE ARE A LOT OF NEW SOLDIERS HERE SINCE YOU--



YEAH? WELL, THERE'S GONNA BE ONE LESS BY TOMORROW MORNING!

C'MON, LOVER-BOY! GET MOVIN'! MY GIRL'S COMIN' WITH ME AN'--



CARL...

CARL - I'M BEGGING YOU! WHAT KIND OF LIFE DO YOU THINK WE'D HAVE? ALWAYS RUNNING... ALWAYS HIDING UNTIL -- AND I'D LEAVE YOU, CARL! I'D LEAVE YOU THE FIRST CHANCE I HAD!



"FOR A MINUTE, THE ONLY SOUND IN THE DINER WAS THE AWFUL POUNDING OF MY OWN HEART! THEN CARL'S LAUGHTER WAS FILLING THE PLACE LIKE AN EXPLOSION OF LIVE STEAM... THE FIERCE BREATH OF IT HOT AGAINST MY CHEEK AS HE GRIPPED MY ARM..."

THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU, BABY! YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR KILLS ME! NOBODY WALKS OUT ON CARL SHEEDY! NOBODY!

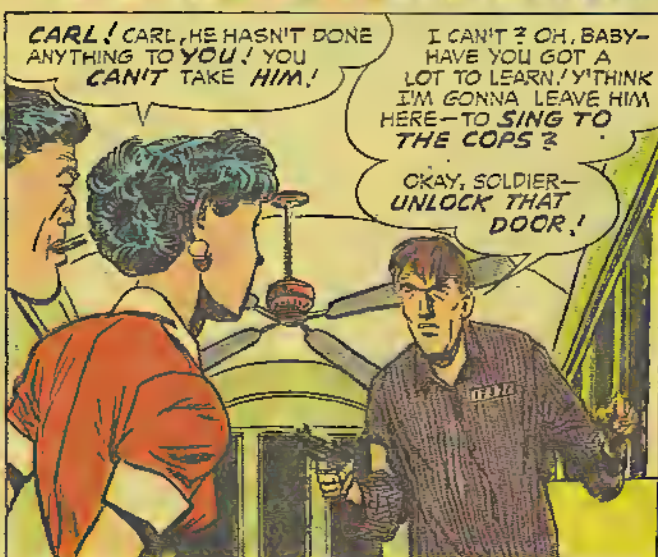
THAT MEANS YOU, TOO, SOLDIER! NOW, GET MOVIN'! I GOT A CAR DOWN THE ROAD--AN' YOU GOT A DATE WITH ME AN' MY GIRL!



CARL! CARL, HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING TO YOU! YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM!

I CAN'T? OH, BABY-- HAVE YOU GOT A LOT TO LEARN! Y' THINK I'M GONNA LEAVE HIM HERE-- TO SING TO THE COPS?

OKAY, SOLDIER-- UNLOCK THAT DOOR!



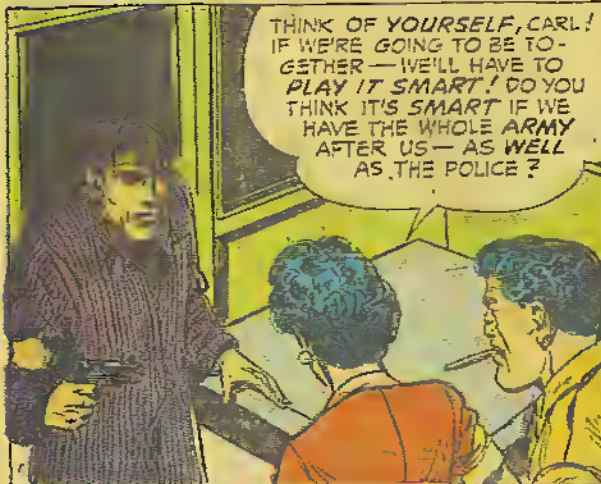
"FEAR CAN MAKE YOU DO CRAZY THINGS, I KNOW—BECAUSE THE NEXT MINUTE I MUST HAVE BEEN INSANE! I BROKE AWAY FROM CARL AND FLUNG MYSELF BETWEEN HIM AND THE SERGEANT!"

ALL RIGHT, CARL... YOU WIN! I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU! BUT YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME FIRST...



"AND SUDDENLY, I KNEW THE ONE WAY TO GET THROUGH TO HIM! THE ONLY SOFT SPOT IN CARL SHEEDY'S WHOLE UGLY BEING! HIS VANITY!"

THINK OF YOURSELF, CARL! IF WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER—WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY IT SMART! DO YOU THINK IT'S SMART IF WE HAVE THE WHOLE ARMY AFTER US—AS WELL AS THE POLICE?



"SOMEHOW, I HAD TO MAKE CARL UNDERSTAND..."

I'LL GO WITH YOU, CARL! I'LL STAY WITH YOU! I WON'T TRY TO GET AWAY! I SWEAR I WON'T! BUT YOU'LL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE IF YOU KIDNAP A SOLDIER! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?



"AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNITY OF WAITING..."

OKAY, BABY—BUT WE USE YOUR CAR, SEE? THAT JALOPY I HEISTED IS HOT!

ALL RIGHT!



JUST A SECOND... I AIN'T LEAVIN' THIS LITTLE TOY FER LOVER-BOY TO BE PLAYIN' WITH!



"AND THEN WITH CARL RIGHT BEHIND ME, I WAS RUNNING OUT INTO THE NIGHT, BUT NO MORE THAN A FEW FEET FROM THE DOOR, CARL CALLED TO ME..."

GET THE CAR STARTED, BABY! I GOT JUST ONE MORE THING TO DO!!



"... AND AS HE WENT BACK INTO THE DINER, I KNEW WHAT A FOOL I'D BEEN TO THINK I COULD HAVE TRUSTED HIM!"

OKAY, SOLDIER-BOY—YOU AN' ME HAS GOT A LITTLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO...





"THE RELIEF THAT FLOODED INTO ME AS I RAN INTO THE DINER WAS ALMOST SUFFOCATING..."

SERGEANT—
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT ?

I'M RIGHT FINE, LI'L LADY!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING
STIMULATES ME MORE'N
EXERCISIN' MY MUSCLES...



...AN' THAT'S A GOOD HOT
CUPPA COFFEE ! HOW'S
CHANCES FER GETTIN' ONE
BEFORE DELIVERIN' THIS
HEAP TO THE COPS ?

COMING RIGHT
UP, SIR ! ON
THE DOUBLE !!



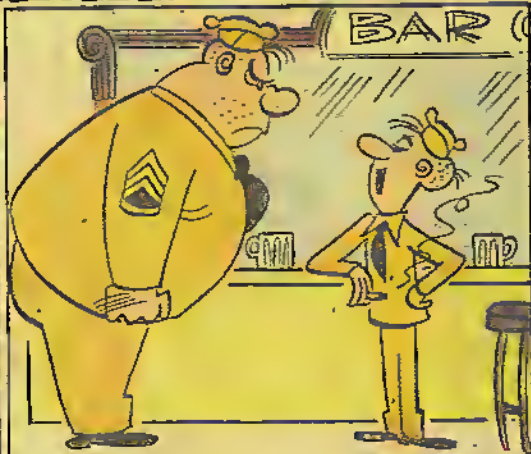
"AND THERE'LL ALWAYS BE A HOT CUP OF COFFEE
WAITING FOR SERGEANT MULVANEY.— ON THE
HOUSE !"
The End

PRIVATE JOKES

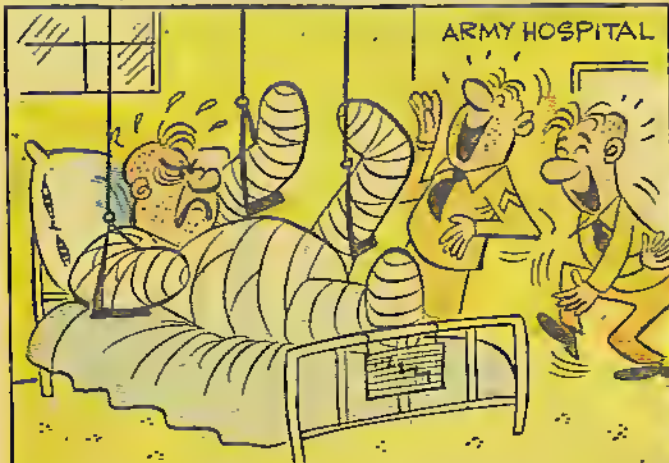
VIC
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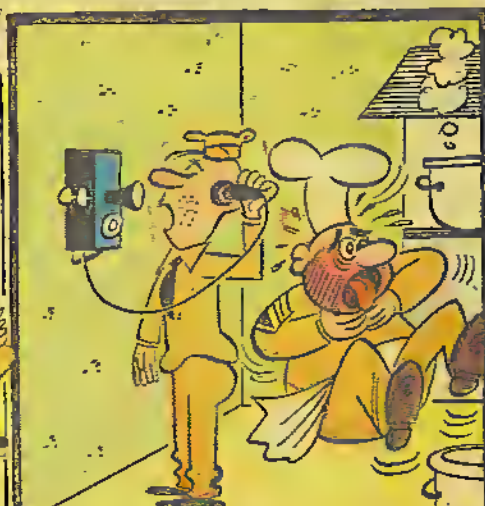
"PLEASE, DEAR, WATCH THE BUMPS!"



"SO YOU REFUSE TO TAKE BACK WHAT YOU SAID, EH?... GOOD! I ADMIRE A MAN WHO STICKS TO HIS GUNS!"



"WAIT'LL YOU HEAR THIS, SARGE - IT'LL KILL YOU!"



"HE HAS A FISHBONE STUCK IN HIS THROAT, DOC... NO HURRY!..."

Pvt. DOPEY in "GOOD SKATE"

